

Charge to the Peer Reviewers

Thank you for agreeing to serve as a peer reviewer of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) *Revised Guidelines for HIV Counseling, Testing, and Linkage in Non-Clinical Settings*. In addition to the usual review procedures for CDC documents, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) require a peer review of the appropriateness of the methods and the strength of the author's inferences if the document contains "influential scientific information." The OMB Bulletin describing this requirement can be accessed at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/assets/omb/memoranda/fy2005/m05-03.pdf>. The goal of this effort is to increase the quality and credibility of scientific information generated by the government through the development and use of an enhanced peer review process for government publications.

The document that you will review – the *Revised Guidelines for HIV Testing, Counseling, and Linkage in Non-Healthcare Settings* – is a single, integrated, up-to-date set of guidelines supported by the most current research and takes into consideration the experience of programs operating at the local level. We are requesting your peer review specifically of the body of literature used to draw conclusions about the feasibility of technology and recommended strategies when providing HIV testing, counseling, and referral services in the non-healthcare settings. This will involve reviewing the "Background and Key Considerations" sections of this document to identify whether any studies have been misinterpreted or left out, and to comment on the appropriateness of our conclusions. Please note some of the conclusions were informed by the field experiences of academicians, state and local health departments, prevention training center, and community based organizations, which may not be feasible for review. You are also welcome to comment on the overall document and the specific recommendations if you wish; however the primary focus is on process by which recommendations were drawn. Please feel free to use the attached guide to help you navigate to the relevant sections of the document and to collect and organize your responses. After we review your comments, they will be posted without attribution along with our responses on the CDC/ATSDR Information Quality Peer Review webpage found at <http://www2a.cdc.gov/od/peer/peer.asp>.

An electronic copy of the document is attached and we will also send you a hard copy to you via Federal Express. Please submit your comments by email to Ms. Amrita Patel at gwu2@cdc.gov or fax ((404) 639-5260, attn: Amrita Patel by midnight November 20, 2009. If you have any questions or need any other assistance during your review, please contact Ms. Amrita Patel at (404) 639-8768.